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If.: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers

By David J Smith

Kids Can Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Steve Adams (illustrator). Hardcover. 40 pages. Dimensions: 9.6in. x 9.4in. x 0.5in. Some things are so huge or so old that its hard to wrap your mind around them. But what if we took these big, hard-to-imagine objects and events and compared them to things we can see, feel and touch Instantly, wed see our world in a whole new way. So begins this endlessly intriguing guide to better understanding all those really big ideas and numbers children come across on a regular basis. Author David J. Smith has found clever devices to scale down everything from time lines (the history of Earth compressed into one year), to quantities (all the wealth in the world divided into one hundred coins), to size differences (the planets shown as different types of balls). Accompanying each description is a kid-friendly drawing by illustrator Steve Adams that visually reinforces the concept. By simply reducing everything to human scale, Smith has made the incomprehensible easier to grasp, and therefore more meaningful. The children who just love these kinds of fact-filled, knock-your-socks-off books will want to read this one from cover to cover. It will find the most use, however,...



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